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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY.

THE EXPOSITION of the law of public meetings in England and Ireland will doubtless interest the Indian reader. We need therefore make no apology in reproducing the opinions given by the Solicitor General, Ireland, on the subject in reply to some questions put to him in the House of Commons :

Mr. M'Coan asked the Solicitor-General for Ireland whether there was any and what, difference between the law of England and that of Ireland in respect of the right of public meeting, and especially if in Ireland the magistrates and police might legally disperse by force (and fire upon) a meeting convened for a legal purpose but which refused to obey their order to disperse, or even a prohibitory proclamation of the Lord-Lieutenant.

The Solicitor-General for Ireland.—Sir, in reply to the first branch of the question of the hon. member—viz., "whether there is any, and what difference between the law of England and Ireland in respect of the right of public meeting." I have to answer that the common law upon this subject is common both to England and Ireland and also that part of the statute law is common to both countries ; but that some parts of the statute law are specially limited in their application to England, and other parts of it to Ireland.

For instance, the Riot Act in England is the 1 George I., statute 2, c. 5 ; the Riot Act in Ireland is 27 George III., c. 15. So the Acts for preventing illegal oaths by assemblages are not the same in each country. In reply to the second branch of the question—viz., "If in Ireland the magistrates and police may legally disperse by force (and fire upon) a meeting convened for a legal purpose, but which refuses to obey their order to disperse, or even a prohibitory proclamation of the Lord-Lieutenant," I have to answer that if a meeting which is apparently convened for a legal purpose is in reality an unlawful assembly, calling for dispersal or prohibition on the part of the authorities ; or if, being in its inception a lawful meeting, it turns into such an unlawful assembly, it is in my opinion the duty of magistrates as conservators of the peace and of the police as peace officers to call on the assemblage to disperse and on refusal to use such force as necessary for that purpose, but not more force than is necessary. And further, Sir, in reference to that part of the question relating to the use of firearms, if riot takes place so dangerous that it cannot be quelled by other means, then, Sir, the use of firearms is justified by law ; but I must add that in my opinion the use of deadly weapons is only justifiable in the last resort.

Mr. Dillon asked the Solicitor-General for Ireland whether he would state the various circumstances which caused a meeting in Ireland to be an unlawful assembly, of such a nature that the magistrates might disperse it by force.

The Solicitor-General for Ireland said.—Mr Speaker, it is not practicable within the reasonable limits of an answer to a question in this honourable House to give a legal dissertation which shall exhaustively state (as the question asks) "the various circumstances which cause a meeting in Ireland to be an unlawful assembly, of such a nature that the magistrates may disperse it by force ;" but generally it may be stated that if riot occurs it is the duty of magistrates to quell it (and, if necessary, by force), and even when no riot occurs it is also the duty of magistrates to disperse (and, if necessary, by force) an unlawful assembly. If magistrates are guilty of criminal negligence in not doing so, they are liable to prosecution for breach of duty. The commonest form of such an unlawful assembly is a meeting of three or more persons which from its character and the circumstances in which it is assembled, is likely, in the opinion of men of reasonable firmness and courage, to prove dangerous to the peace of the neighbourhood, or is calculated to excite terror, alarm, and consternation. Of course, this definition, which cannot be said to be exhaustive, necessarily comprises a variety of detail depending on the circumstances of each particular case, which must be judged of at the time by the authorities charged with the conservation of the peace on their own responsibility.

We believe the law of public meetings prevalent in the United Kingdom applies *pro tanto* to British India.

IN THE FRENCH Chamber M. Gambetta, in returning thanks for his election for the third time as its President, thus recounted the works done by the Republic :

You have put an end to the enterprises of personal rule and of the old parties You have restored in all its reality the Government of thecountry by the country. You have restored Paris to the Parliament, and the Parliament to Paris. By a grand act of clemency and political sagacity you have drawn a veil over the remains of our civil discords and that without incurring any peril to Republican order. You have responded to the feelings of humanity and generosity always so powerful in the French mind. You have favoured the efforts that have been directed to national education laws. After restoring in their integrity the too long disregarded rights and laws of the State, you have insured the education of all French youth. By embodying for the first time in the law an absolute respect for liberty of conscience you have thoroughly remodelled higher and intermediate education, richly endowed the three branches of public instruction, and thereby prepared a splendid crop of men for the future. Public works have received from you a decisive and unprecedented impulse. The populations, who had contributed to the creation of the old railways, are at length, by a just reciprocity, about to possess new means of transport and exchange. The fine works which France owes to nature and to the past have assumed from your generous co-operation an extension and power which will enable them, fromDunkirk to Marseilles, to compete effectually with the greatest *entrepots* in Europe. The road and the canals, largely subsidized and restored, broadened and constructed, will complete that admirable system of means of communication. Alongside the industrial and economic machinery you have taken a jealous interest in reconstructing and re-founding the military and naval machinery of France you have taken a special interest in the men charged on land and at sea with the custody and employment of that vast machinery. The situation, both in active service and as pensioners, of all the officers and soldiers has been improved ; that of the non-commissioned officers has been and is still the subject of your constant solicitude. The staff has been re-organized ; it remains for you, by passing the Bills laid before you, to recast the recruiting law, organize the military administration, fix the rules of advancement, and the belief is warranted that you will not separate without having given the last touch to the great work of national defence. You have been able to accomplish such a programme, thanks to the wonderful industry and thrift of the country, which for five years has annually yielded you in surpluses the large remissions of taxation by which you have lightened each Budget. You have set the Budgets in equilibrium, devoted large sums to all the public services, and rendered the credit of France beyond all comparison. A special law of the greatest moment for the different branches of social economy the total recasting of our general Customs tariff, the postal and telegraphic reform, the fusion of these two services, and a long series of business laws will remain a standing proof of your activity and competency. Lastly, while waiting to place by law public liberties beyond reach of attack, you have favoured the exercise of them. You have already secured the right of meeting. The Press will shortly be set free by your coming deliberatsons, and also the legal recognition of professional associations.

The present Republic of France has certainly proved eminently successful.

A NEW PRESS BILL has been introduced in the French Chamber. It repeals all existing laws, and forms an entirely new code. Henceforth there will be no stamp, no caution money, and no previous authorization for posting bills, hawking, or for drawings and caricatures. The press will be absolutely free.

THE FOLLOWING conversation took place in the House of Commons regarding the Kolapore conspiracy :

Mr. Otway asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had received any information of a conspiracy at Kolapore, in which thousands of persons of different religions and castes were involved to murder the entire European community while in church, and to set up a deposed Prince, who was supposed to be still living, in the place of the present Rajah — The Marquis of Hartington : When my hon. friend asked me a previous question, I had received no information respecting these reports from the Government of India ; but in reply to a telegram which I sent I received the following information from the Bombay Government by telegram ;—"Certain persons arrested for Dacoity have made statements regarding conspiracy open to suspicion but Political Agent thought should go before magistrate ; afterward sent to Sessions Court at Kolapore. Bombay Governments allowed law to take its course, though apprently not regarding the occurrence as serious, no facts known here beyond the details now being elicited at the judicial investigation. The case originated entirely under the Bombay Government without previous communication wth the Government of India Reports called for and are coming."—Mr. Orway asked whether these reports when received would be laid upon the table.—The Marquis of Hartington—I had better wait until they are received before answering that question.

THE QUEEN has, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, approved of the grant of the following pensions from the Civil List :—To Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace, £200 a year, in recognition of his eminence as a naturalist ; Mrs. Rodgers, £75 a year, in recognition of the services of her late husband, the Rev. John Rodgers, in the cause of public elementary education ; Lady Duffus Hardy, £55 a year, in addition to the pension of £109 a year granted in 1879, in recognition of the historical, literary, and public services of her late husband, Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy , Dr. Schmitz, £50 a year, in recognition of his services to classical education and literature.

TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY.

WE ARE glad to observe that Sir Arthur Hobhouse has been made a Privy Councillor, in order, that his services may be at the command of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Sir Arthur is a sound lawyer as well as a staunch Liberal, and has done much useful work in India as well as in England.

THE SOCIETY of Friends in Great Britain have issued an appeal to their fellow countrymen on the subject of the opium trade. They state that they are deeply impressed with the conviction that the Government of this country have for a long series of years been pursuing a course of conduct wholly opposed to Christian morality in relation to the opium trade between India and China. They recognise the reasonableness of the proposition that the people of this country should be asked to contribute towards the deficiency in the Indian Budget which may at least for a time, be occasioned by the surrender of the opium revenue. Are the English people as a body prepared to endorse this appeal of their "Friends" by making good the loss of one-sixth of the Indian revenue, which the surrender of the opium monopoly will involve ?

ACCORDING to an English journal, London Society admires wealth so very much, that it is rapidly raising the Rothschilds to a position intermediate between that of English nobles and Royal Princes. Their movements, festivities, and marriages are chronicled in the newspapers like those of the most important personages in Europe. The marriage, for instance, of Baron Leopold to Madlle. Perugia, at the Synagogue in Great Portland Street, was recorded with all the particularity of a royal wedding, and was attended by the Prince of Wales and Lord Beaconsfield, in spite of the snow-drifts. In one sense this is the "golden" age.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT intends to make it a cardinal point of its policy to prohibit the importation of foreign opium. So it would appear from the new treaty with America. This treaty concedes to the United States the right to limit or suspend at will the immigration of Chinese labourers. On the other hand, the Americans undertake that their subjects shall neither import opium into Chinese ports nor deal in opium when imported. How will this affect the importation of opium into China by British subjects ?

THE LONDON DAILY NEWS states that the charge of libelling the Amir-i-Kabeer, of Hyderabad, brought against Mr. Robert Knight, Proprietor of the *Statesman*, will be tried by a special jury in the Court of Queen's Bench a writ of *certiorari* having been applied for and granted in Judges' Chambers yesterday. Mr. Knight will plead a full justification for the alleged libel, and that its publication was for the public benefit.

THE INTERNATIONAL Congress, recently held at Milan for the education of the deaf, decided to discard signs in teaching and to adopt a purely oral method. It was maintained that the oral method appealed to the intellect, while gestures speak coarsely to the senses.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

IN A report just published the Comptroller General tells us that the result of the increased facilities given to the public in connection with theGovernment Savings Banks has been satisfactory. On the 31st March last the total amount at credit of the depositors in all the several classes of Savings Banks in India *viz*, District, Railway, Presidency, and Regimental, was Rs. 231,52,946. This sum exceeds the closing balance of 1878-79. (Rs. 1,93,79,227) by Rs. 37,73,719, and the increase is about 19 per cent. We note that natives of the country had 52,147 accounts with the sum of Rs. 1,45,58,360 at their credit and Europeans and Eurasians 39,141 accounts with Rs. 85,94,586, at their credit. The amount of interest passed to the depositors at the close of the year under review was Rs. 7,40,130.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held at the Albert Hall on Saturday last to "discuss the question of the Statesman Defence Fund." Dr. K. M. Bannerjea, who presided on the occasion said, that the meeting had been called together "to express sympathy for a gentleman who by his public acts has endeared himself to the whole population and entitled himself to the respect of all the thinking people of India." He remarked : "It is only when England sympathises with India, and India sympathises with England, that the connection between the two countries may be said to be placed on the firmest basis possible." "That sort of interchange of sympathy", he went on to say, "exists, and it has been brought about in a great measure by the exertions of men like Mr. Robert Knight." Even if this meeting does not eventuate in a large pecuniary result, it is a moral demonstration of great value.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is restless in its agitation about Indian cotton duties. The Chamber has submitted a representation to the Secretary of State on the subject of the confiscation

139457

of duty-free goods, which has been forwarded to the Government of India for report.

IT IS STATED that the Chamber lately declined to receive a deputation of the Manchester Auxiliary of the Anglo-Oriental Society for the suppression of the Opium Trade, on the subject of the Indian Opium traffic viewed in relation to its effect on legitimate trade with China. "In the opinion of the Directors it would not serve any useful purpose at the present time to receive the proposed deputation."

WE HOPE the *Pioneer* is correct in stating that every effort is being made to bring about the abolition of Presidency Commands as advised by the Army Commission, and the substitution of four *corps d'armee* in India under the direct control of the Commander-in-Chief.

WE OBSERVE that Babu Issur Chunder Mitter has been appointed to hear objections to License tax assessment in Calcutta. Perhaps the Lieutenant Governor has at last awakened to the enormity and high-handedness of Mr. Goodricke's proceedings. Could not Mr. Goodricke be relieved of the License tax altogether?

THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY.

WITH REFERENCE to our notice of a complaint anent the transfer of Juggutbullubpore Police Station to Ampta a correspondent writes to say that the complaint originated with some selfish men who frequently visit Calcutta, for to the people at large the transfer has proved exceedingly beneficial.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Sylhet says that the sum of Rs. 5000 saved by the abolition of the Gowhati High School was appropriated to the purpose of increasing the salaries of the Inspector of School's office clerks and creating one or two Deputy and Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Sylhet. This, however, was not needed, as the district could do very well without any additional Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Mr. Martin, the Inspector of Schools for Assam, who recommended the abolition of the Gowhati High School, suggested the creation of a High School either at Sibsagur or at Sylhet. If a High School be allowed to Assam, it should be located at Gowhati, the centre of the province, the next best place is Sylhet. The schools of Sylhet contain students, especially the Zillah School, which far out-number the students of all the schools in Assam.

THE MAHARATHA justly protests against the resumption of Inam lands on non-payment of revenue at the specified dates of instalments without attaching the personal property of the inamdar provided for in the new Revenue Code. Eviction is intolerable when the right is exercised by the Bengal zemindar, but is considered legitimate when it is resorted to by Government. We hope the inamdars of Bombay will strongly protest against this sweeping measure.

WE ARE GLAD to observe that the *Pioneer* has entered the lists against over-legislation. Our contemporary says: "Until now the typical instance of ill-timed frivolity has been that Nero fiddled while Rome was burning; but Nero will be forgotten in our Legal Member dictating his Easement law to "all British India," at the very time when the treasure and blood of the country were being lavished like water upon the rocks of Afghanistan." The writer thus concludes:

> The Legislative Department has an ample sphere, within the sound constitutional limits imposed by Lord Northbrook, but now disregarded, in focussing and harmonizing the Judge-made law into the Codes that we already have, and in finding technical language for such new laws as the Executive is compelled to ask for. But away with these legislative rockets which may mean only fireworks, stars, and coruscations, in the Council Chamber, while the stick falls heavily on the people outside. We venture to submit in all deference that either the Legislative Department should be strictly confined to Lord Northbrook's limits, or that the Council should be recruited by such a weight of independent, well-informed native opinion, as would act as a buffer between the people and fantastic and mischievous specialism.

The times are really looking up when the *Pioneer* talks of "independent, well-informed native opinion" as a "buffer" in the Legislative Council.

WE ARE really very glad to see that an Indian lady has conquered the Stracheys. The London *Times* says that "the opponents of the metre gauge for Indian railways have secured a triumph in the selection of the broad gauge for the new Bhupal line. It is believed that this in a great measure is due to the objections to the narrow gauge urged by the Begum of Bhupal." Long live the Begum of Bhupal!

THERE was a rather animated discussion at the last meeting of the Bengal Social Science Association on the subject of religious education. Father Lafont advocated religious instruction; Mr. George Yule, the chairman took the opposite view. Mr. Yule said:

> We found, as a matter of history and observation, that those nations which had been peculiarly religious had not been the best; and it was frequently found amongst themselves, in their own acquaintances, and citizens at large that a great nation was not necessarily a good nation; and they found even in the present day, that, if there was a fraud of extraordinary magnitude some deep laid scheme to destroy the fortunes, and to ruin the hopes and comforts of others—honest people, they would find at the bottom of it religion or the outward observance of it. He would quote as an example the perpetrators of the City of Glasgow Bank fraud. The directors were a number of religious men, they attended churches, they had family prayers; they not only attended churches, but they built churches and one of them was so particularly religious so scrupulous that they would not receive a newspaper even on Sunday, because he felt that it would be offensive to a Being who was called God. Now, these men were instrumental in committing fraud of so monstrous, so heinous a nature that they felt at once that religion so far from protecting them against dishonesty, and the tendency to fraud was often masked under the cloak of religion. When there was a wave of religious feeling passing over the people, there was much hypocrisy, too. This was so in Scotland during the Presbyterian *regime*: it was so under the Government of Cromwell in England and it was atrociously so in Rome. And therefore, he thought that it was not true, as an historical fact that religion was the only power to which could be attributed the moral progress of the people.

We thank Mr. Yule for speaking out so boldly.

AT ANOTHER MEETING of the same Association in discuss g the subject of tanks the Hon'ble Peary Mohun Mookerjea said:

> I think that medical science and hygiene have not progressed so far as to be able to connect as cause and effect the existence of filthy tanks and the outbreak of disease in their neighbourhood. I have seen it stated in scientific journals that some of the healthiest and oldest men in England and in the United States are to be found among the cobbler class and other poor men who live in the worst parts of the cities, and it is also an important fact—one which we cannot take too much notice of—that the incidence of epidemic fever in Mofussil villages and towns was very capricious in this respect. Places which are on the banks of rivers, and the people of which used river water which is admitted on all hands to be comparatively pure were the hotbeds of fever, while villages in the interior which are full of tanks with fœtid water altogether escaped the calamity. I do not think that we are at all warranted in tracing increased mortality in the Native quarter of the town in comparison with the English quarter to this cause.

But medicos have their own hobbies which at times they ride to death.

FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY.

WE ARE glad to learn that the *Bangalore Examiner* proposes to enlarge its size by the addition of a third sheet and by the alteration in the arrangement of its columns following as far as practicable the form of the "*Pioneer*" and "the *Lucknow Express*." This enlargement, our contemporary says, has become necessary in consequence of the approaching rendition of the Mysore State, the progress already made in educational development, and the daily increasing English reading population of Bangalore as well as of the whole province. We wish our contemporary success in his enterprise.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. W. Alexander, Head Master of the Mayo College Ajmere, to be principal of the Presidency College, Indore, vice Mr. Abereigh Mackay deceased. Colonel C. K. M. Walter, Resident in Meywar, officiates as Agent, Governor-General, Rajputana upon the departure of Colonel Bradford on furlough until further orders.—*Press Commissioner.*

WE HAVE received the following from the Press Commissioner:

> It is reported from Kandahar that the Farsiwans of Herat were being much persecuted; the principal merchants and Jews had fled, some with, some without, their Families. The Alimozais have also fled.
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> It is reported from Kabul that the Amir has remitted the poll-tax on the Taraki Ghilzais, and that the tribe is now paying revenue. The rumour that there were Russians in Kabul is said to be false, the truth being that five Turkish prisoners released by the Russians had recently passed through Kabul *en route* to Peshawar. News had reached the Amir that Muhammad Ishak Khan, Governor of Turkistan had succeeded in obtaining the submission of Maimenah.
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> From Herat it is reported that the Taimunis were much dissatisfied with Sirdar Abdul Wahab Khan, Ayub's Governor at Taiwara and that Ayub has imprisoned Haji Momen Khan, and some other influential Tarakzai chiefs. Yulantash Khan, son of the late Khan, of Agha is said to have gone to Maimenah with one thousand sowars.
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> Sirdar Gul Mahammad Khan, writes from Girishk that he has sent his brother Sher Mahammad Khan with Alizai and Barakzai sowars to Naozad to collect revenue. The Alizai Khans are still at Girishk.
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> Copious rain fell yesterday and the previous night, from which much benefit is anticipated. The weather is again bright and cold.

THE PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL has abolished the "*Morals Police*," which was charged with the working of the Contagious Diseases Act, because it "endangers individual liberty without producing the results it was intended to realize in respect of the maladies incidental to prostitution or in respect of the *surveillance* over violations of the common law and public order, or outrages against morality." Mr. Stansfeld has introduced into the House of Commons a Bill for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. Why should not this dirty Act be also abolished in India?

THE PIONEER hears that a Despatch has come out from the Secretary of State for India to the Viceroy recommending the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, but it says that "there is apparently so strong a feeling among high Officials against the Act being repealed that the Viceroy is unwilling to follow, with deep consideration, the lead given by the Ministry in England." We hope that Lord Ripon is strong enough to tear asunder these leading strings.

WE ARE sorry to learn that the old and well known firm of Messrs. Lyall Rennie and Co. have become bankrupt. Their liabilities are given by the *Statesman* at 40 lacs of rupees. We believe this is the second time this firm has failed. It is said that they have brought on the disaster by taking to export business.

AGAIN AN acting Native Judge has been appointed to the Bombay High Court. Will a permanent incumbent be never appointed?

SATURDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to record the death of Mr. W. E. H. Forsyth, Clerk of the Crown, High Court, and Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Legislative Department. He suffered for some time from abscess of the liver, and expired on Thursday last. He was a well read lawyer, a good scholar, and an excellent draftsman. He was for sometime the editor of the *Indian Observer* and popularly believed to be the author of the sparkling squib entitled Tiberius in that paper. He was also Tagore Law Lecturer for one year. His premature death is regretted by a large circle of friends.

WE ARE sorry to observe that Mr. Stokes is again going to tinker the Criminal Procedure Act and the Penal Code. We are sorry to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor was alone in his opposition to this constant legislative meddling.

AT THE last meeting of the Bengal Social Science Association Mr. George Yule read a most able and instructive lecture on the Currency of India. We propose to notice it at leisure.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy delivered an excellent address to the Calcutta Volunteers in accepting the post of Honorary Colonel. His Excellency said: "We cannot, in the circumstances of India, look to approach to the large numbers which have been enrolled in the ranks of the volunteers at Home, and if that be the case it seems to me that it only behoves you—Indian Volunteers—to labour the more to make up by your efficiency for the comparative paucity of your numbers. But I have never held that you ought to estimate the importance of the volunteer force by the number of men who are actually enrolled in its ranks at any given moment." We expected that His Excellency would say something about the enrolment of Native Volunteers.

THE ROLL of the House of Lords for the present session has just been made up, the total number of peers, spiritual and temporal, being 511. Of these four are princes of the blood royal, two are archbishops, twenty-two were dukes, nineteen are marquises, 138 are earls, thirty-two are viscounts, twenty-four are bishops, and 270 are barons.

GENERAL MIR AHMED KHAN, the Envoy from Kabul, has arrived in Calcutta. The object of his mission is not known.

FROM THE results of the Honor and M. A. examinations in the Calcutta University published in this morning's *Gazette of India*, we learn that in English the General Assembly's Institution occupies the first and second places in Honors in the second division, the Presidency College takes the 3rd place, the 4th and 5th places are occupied by the Hooghly College, and the 6th place by the Free Church Institution. In the 3rd division the first place is held by the Presidency College and the 2nd by the Canning College, In Sanskrit only one student has passed and he comes from the Sanskrit College. In Mathematics one has passed in the 1st division and 6 in the 2nd division. In Physical Science five have passed in the 1st division and two in the second division. Thirteen students have passed the M. A. examination, and they belong to the Presidency College, Canning College Dacca College, Muir College and Cathedral Mission College. The Premchand Roychand scholar comes from the General Assembly's Institution.

A CORRESPONDENT at Chattuck writes that the people there put a curious version of the object of the census. They say that the number of the population is taken to ascertain the extent of increase and to diminish it by poisoning—the population having immensely increased of late. Old women and men have actually ceased to take their usual food for fear, and the inhabitants resisted the entry of census officers into their houses at night, and it was necessary to send a constable with each enumerator.

WE ARE INDEBTED to the Press Commissioner for the following:

> A few days ago some men of Zashi Zaid Gul, a village south of Port Mackeson, murdered a man in British territory and retired to their village which is strong and well fortified, refusing to surrender to the authorities.
>
> The place was surrounded by the Police and Militia and the criminals were eventually given up.

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

Zahsi Zaid Gul is a notorious village within our border which has often given trouble, and it appears the inhabitants have a feud with the Kaka Khel, the tribe to which their victim belonged.

THERE WERE some 3000 candidates for 700 clerkships on Rs. 15 a month for the Bengal Census office! What is the counry coming to? How will the problem of life be solved?

THERE were 213 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 19th February, of which 12 were from cholera, 8 from small-pox, 61 from fevers, 27 from bowel complaints, 4 from accidents and suicide, 19 from pthisis and asthma, and the rest from other causes. Four children were still-born, 35 died between the ages of 15 days and under and above 15 days nd under one year, and 34 persons died at the age of 60 and upwards. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 17. The daily average of mortality was 30·4.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications: 1. Finance and Revenue Accounts and Miscellaneous Statistics relating to the Finances of British India. Part II Receipts and disbursements of each Presidency and Province from 1st April 1871 to 31st March 1879. 2. Report on the Progress and condition of the Government Botanical Gardens at Sharaunpur and Mussooree for 1879-80. 3. Report on the Railway-borne Trade of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the quarter ending 30th September 1880. 4. Report of the Medical officer of Immigration Department on British Guiana for 1879. 5. Report on the Administration of Pudukotta for 1879-80. 6. The Famine memo of the Kola District, Mysore Province. By a Native Officer of the Mysore Commission. 7. The Suddarshanna Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy, Vol. IV. No. 12, December, 1880. 8. Index Geographicus Indicus being a list alphabetically arranged of the Principal Places in Her Imperial Majesty's Indian Empire. By J. Fred. Baness, F. R. G. S. F. S. Sc. (London) of the survey of India. 9. A Briet Account of Coolie Immigration in British Guinea for 1879. 10. Nevis Immigration Report for 1879-80 11. Partha Parajoy Natuk a drama in Bengali. By Monmohun Bose. 13. Report on the Cotton Production and Trade of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for 1879-80.

WE ARE sorry to see it stated that both Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Knight are about to leave India. We hope they are not going for good. Mr. Knight was a very useful, active and public-spirited citizen, in fact the leading representative of the tradespeople of Calcutta. Mrs. Knight identified herself with the cause of female education and progress in Bengal.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, February 18th.—The Queen has returned to Windsor Castle from Osborne. Mr. Parnell was present in the House of Commons this evening.

21st.—News from the Gold Coast states that on the 10th instant, the Ashantees were within three days' march of Elmina. The latest advices from the Transvaal state that Sir Evelyn Wood, with a squadron of the Hussars, has made a successful reconnaissance to within ten miles of Wakkerstroom without encountering any of the enemy. An enthusiastic meeting was held yesterday in Clare, at which Mr. Parnell made an address exhorting his hearers to adhere to the land league programme.

21st.—The Premier, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that Government had taken steps to bring about a satisfactory settlement with the Transvaal in order to avoid bloodshed, consistent with the honour of the Crown, but he declined to give particulars. The Orange Free State Volksraad has authorised British troops to pass from Basutoland.

22nd.—The committee on Mr Forster's Coercion Bill has been closed. The *Daily News* has published a paragraph stating that Government will probably abandon the Arms Bill for Ireland.

22nd.—The Archbishop of Dublin has issued a pastoral letter in which he says that the alliance between Mr. Parnell and Mr. Rochfort is impious, and that Mr. Parnell is unworthy of the confidence of the Irish people.

23rd.—Advices from Natal state that a large Convoy of supplies, accompanied by a strong column of troops, reached Schams Hoogte unopposed. The *Daily News* publishes a paragraph stating that the gunpowder magazine at Cork has been robbed. The Duke of Cambridge, in distributing the prizes at Woolwich, severely censured the idleness and laxity of discipline among the Woolwich cadets.

24th.—France has prohibited the exportation of arms to Greece. Official despatches had been published relative to the Greek frontier question from which it appears that on the 10th January Lord Granville informed Greece that England's friendship was not affected by her (Greece's) refusal to accept the arbitration of the powers. The debate on Kandahar question is fixed for the 3rd March, General Skobeleff's return to Russia has been postponed. Lord Odo Russell, British Ambassador at Berlin, has been raised to the Peerage. Advices from Natal state that a convoy of supplies has reached Colonel Colley's camp. The *Morning Post* publishes a paragraph stating that Peru has invoked the mediation of England, France and Italy with Chili.

24th.—Later bulletins state that Mr. Gladstone is in no danger, but requires rest.

25th.—Lord Hartington, in reply to a question, said that the Wali's pension was 5,000 rupees monthly, and that Yakub got nothing. The *Daily News* publishes a telegram from St. Petersburg that the treaty between Russia and China was signed yesterday afternoon. The latest Cape advices state that Sir G. Colley has reconnoitred the enemy's position. The Natal Dutchmen are secretly assisting the Boers.

25th.—Further papers have been issued respecting the Kandahar question. They include memoranda from the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Napier of Magdala and Sir Garnet Wolseley, besides the members of the India Council. On the 31st August, the Duke of Cambridge comments upon the paper by Colonel East, advising our withdrawal from Kandahar and says that he is satisfied that on our retention of Kandahar largely depends our general position and influence in the east, especially in Central Asia, and even our hold on India with its railroads. His Royal Highness says that Kandahar became a great commercial emporium: Kandahar is important as a military position commanding Herat. We cannot prevent Russia attaining Merve, but holding Kandahar we could regard a Russian advance with equanimity. Sir. Garnet Wolseley concurs with Colonel East that we should withdraw from Kandahar.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 3rd March at 7 P. M.
Subject: On Optical Illusions.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S., F.I.C., on Saturday, the 5th March at 3 P. M.
Subject: Reduction and Classification of the Metals.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1881.

REPORT OF THE RENT-LAW COMMISSION.

XXIX.

THE Rent Commission recommend some special provisions regarding Merger. They say whether the doctrine of Merger applies in the Mofussil is a question upon which the decisions of the highest tribunals are not of one accord. Any doubt as to the state of the law on a point like this is certain to create litigation, which can be prevented by making the law clear and indubitable. In a country where there are so many interests intermediate between the zemindar at the top and the cultivator at the bottom, it is specially important that it should be known exactly what consequences ensue when the zemindar or the owner of any intermediate interest acquires the interest immediately subordinate to his own. They accordingly provide that when by purchase at a private or public sale, or by gift, succession, or will, the proprietor of an estate becomes the owner of a tenure in such estate, such tenure shall, unless such proprietor can show that he had a contrary intention, be presumed to be merged in the proprietary interest and extinguished by the fact of the same person being owner of the estate and the tenure. The same provision is made applicable to the owner of any superior interest acquiring the interest immediately subordinate thereto. They have here followed the principle of equitable Merger which is governed by the intention (if it be a just and fair intention) of the person in whom the two interests unite, and by the purposes of justice. They state that "having regard to the frailty of oral evidence in this country, we have, however, cast upon the person in whom the interests meet the burden of showing an intention to keep them separate by producing a duly registered deed declaratory of such intention, and by proving that a copy of this deed was published upon the land included in the tenure or undertenure." This evidence of intention is required when three months have elapsed from the date of the Merger. This interval will afford sufficient time for consideration and for the execution of the deed in those cases in which it is decided to prevent the Merger. They further provide that there shall be no Merger when the superior interest belongs to several caparcenars, some but not all of whom acquire the interest immediately subordinate. They recommend that the presumption of Merger shall not arise in the case of a minor until he becomes of full age, or in the case of a person of unsound mind until he becomes of sound mind. As the presumption is made to depend upon intention, it cannot reasonably have effect until the person, in whom the interests meet, is capable of a legal intention. It would be inequitable that, apart from the provisions of law as to the avoidance of incumbrances by the sale of a tenure or under-tenure for arrears of its own rent, persons having a lien upon the inferior interest, or holding as tenants under the former owner of such interest, should be prejudiced. They have accordingly provided for the protection of such persons and their rights.

The clearing up of the doubt referred to by the Commission is certainly necessary. The main provision made by the Commission is as follows:

When by purchase at a private or public sale, by gift, succession, or will, the proprietor of an estate becomes the owner of a tenure in such estate, such tenure shall, unless such proprietor can show that he had a contrary intention, be presumed to be merged in the proprietary interest and to be extinguished by the fact of the same person being owner of the estate and the tenure, subject, however, to the following conditions:—

1. Such person must be owner of the estate and the tenure in the same right and at the same time.

2. The presumption shall not arise in the case of a minor until he becomes of full age, or in the case of a person of unsound mind until he becomes of sound mind.

3. Such merger shall not operate to the prejudice of any person having a lien upon such tenure or of any undertenure-holder or ryot.

4. Subject to the provisions of the law for the time being in force relating to sales of land for arrears of Government revenue, and subject to the provisions of this Act as to sales for arrears of rent without, or in execution of, a decree, such proprietor shall have the same rights and be subject to the same liabilities which the previous holder of such tenure had or was subject to, in respect of those persons between whom and such tenure-holder the relation of landlord and tenant existed: provided that when, in the case of two or more persons being coparceners, one or more but not all of such persons becomes the owners of a tenure in such estate, no merger shall take place.

The provision about declaration of intention and notification of the same is we believe calculated to set doubts at rest, but we fear the provision will be more honored in the breach than in the observance thereof. Practically few proprietors will take the necessary step of filing a declaration of intention. Then we do not see the good of binding the minor to make a declaration when he attains majority or a proprietor of an unsound mind to do the same, when he becomes sane. The manager of such disqualified proprietor ought to be able to exercise the discretion vested in the proprietor, as he is responsible for the general management of his estate.

With regard to the application of the doctrine of Merger to Government the Commission remark: "The difference between *Revenue* and *Rent*, which was not always present with sufficient clearness to the minds of those charged with the earlier administration of these provinces, has of late years been very distinctly realized by most persons concerned with the subject. This difference, though discernible in the abstract, is not, however, equally manifest in the particular instance, when we come to cases in which the paramount title belonging to the State and carrying with it the right to receive the *revenue*, and the proprietary title carrying with it the right to receive the *rent* have met in the person of Government. Do the two titles continue to co-exist, each preserving its own incidents? Or is one, and, if so, which of them, swallowed up and lost in the superior essence of the other? In other words, do the tenants, after the two titles have come into the hands of Government, pay *rent* or *revenue*? The settlement of the question is important, not merely as regards the mode of recovering arrears, but as regards other important interests. We have provided in Section 45 that it is and always has been the law, that, when the Secretary of State for India acquires an estate by purchase or otherwise, the proprietary interest is merged in the paramount title. We have endeavoured to guard this provision so as to prevent injury to the rights and interests of third parties; and we have saved the operation of Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1879, which defines and limits the powers of Settlement Officers, and also the operation of the Public Demands Recovery Act."

A question, however, arises as to whether the Government should have a double-barrelled gun

in this matter, that is to say, whether it should have the right to recover revenue under the sunset law as well as under Act VIII. of 1879. This point is not clear. We are of opinion that the recovery of revenue in cases of this kind ought to be regulated by Act VIII. of 1879.

KANDHAHAR.

THE Parliamentary Blue-book relating to the affairs of Affghansthan, No. 1, 1881, contains some valuable papers on the subject. Among them is a despatch of the Secretary of State, dated the 11th November last, in which Lord Hartington states in distinct and emphatic terms the policy which Her Majesty's Government have determined upon in respect of Kandhahar. His Lordship justly states at the outset that the events of July and August have released the British Government from all past engagements and obligations. His Lordship says: "The time appears, therefore, to have arrived when it is possible for the Government to consider the question of the future government of Kandhahar, without any reference to arrangements which have already failed, under circumstances which do not invite a repetition of the experiment." His Lordship then successfully disposes of the arguments in favour of the military occupation or annexation of Kandhahar. In the first place it is urged that in view of future danger to India from foreign invasion it is necessary for us to establish a military post or a military protectorate at Kandhahar. Lord Hartington says in reply that "Her Majesty's Government consider that there exists no such danger or apprehension of danger to the security of India from possible foreign invasion as would justify the Government in taking measures which must certainly lead immediately to very heavy additions to their large military expenditure, which will cause a constant strain on the organization of the Native Army, and which will almost certainly involve us in future complications and difficulties, the nature of which it is easy to anticipate, though their exact form cannot be predicted. They are of opinion that recent experience has done nothing to strengthen the arguments of those who desire, as a military measure, to advance the Indian frontier, and much to verify the forebodings of those who were opposed to that policy. The advances of the Russian frontier which have taken place in recent years were foreseen, and their influence upon our position in India was deliberately considered by Lord Lawrence and other Indian Staesmen, on whose advice the Home Government repeatedly declined to permit itself to be committed to a policy of military extension. Those advances, although they have been continuous and steady, have not been effected without great difficulties, both of a military and administrative character. They have secured to Russia no position of formidable strength; they have added nothing to her military resources; and they have been and are still attended by all the disadvantages which had been anticipated, as the result of an indefinite extension of her military position in an unproductive region inhabited by uncivilized and hostile tribes." In the next place it is contended that the proximity of Russia necessitates a rectification of our Affghan frontier. On this point Lord Hartington remarks:

Her Majesty's Government are unable to admit that the mere fact of the existence of Russian military possessions some hundred miles nearer to the North-Western frontier of India constitutes in itself any cause for anxiety, or for apprehending the possibility of an invasion of India from that quarter. On the other hand the consequences of any interference in the internal affairs of Affghanistan have been precisely those which had been fore-seen and apprehended by the opponents of this policy. It has been proved that there existed no organised military power in Affghanistan which could resist the advance of the British army, or prevent the occupation of any position in that country. But the difficulties of permanent occupation, or of supporting by a military force any Government imposed on the people by the British power, have been exemplified to the fullest extent. The large force which recently occupied Cabul and the neighbouring country, and the line of communication through the Khyber Pass, was found to be barely sufficient to enforce the administration of a temporary Government over a comparatively small portion of the country. The experiment of supporting a Native Government by military assistance at Kandahar has been found to entail equally onerous sacrifices, and it has been in fact so far discredited that most of those who still desire the maintenance of direct British influence in that quarter openly advocate its annexation and administration by the Government of India. It must be remembered, when the annexation of Kandahar is advocated on account of its strategic importance, that it is not merely a question of the occupation of that position. The boundaries of the province over which it was intended Shere Ali should rule have never been defined but it is clear that the extent of territory which must be governed by any authority which may be established at Kandahar must be very large. Unless the districts which extend in one direction towards the dominion of the Amir of Kabul and in others towards Persia and Herat, be reduced under some settled form of Government, the power which occupies Kandahar must be involved in continual embarrassments and complications on every side. The occupation of Kandahar would therefore, certainly involve the administration and the mititary occupation of Khilati Ghilzai on the one side, Farrah on the other, and an undefined territory in the direction of Herat.

So much for the plea of the scientific frontier. As we have repeatedly said the extension of our frontier will render our defence more difficult and expensive.

In the third place the occupation of Kandahar will require the presence of 20,000 men. Who will pay the bill? Surely the tax-payers of India are not prepared to pay it.

In the fourth place Lord Hartington dwells on the morality of the question. He says:

But it is not on the ground of its risk and costliness that Her Majesty's Government are strongly opposed to this policy. The expedition against the late Amir Sher Ali was undertaken with the object of punishing an act committed by him which was held of an unfriendly and even insulting character. It was expressly declared that the British Government had no quarrel with the Affghan people, and that their treatment would depend on their own conduct. It is true that the Affghans have, notwithstanding these assurances, resisted the advance of our forces, and, in accordance with their semi-barbarous character, have frequently committed acts of cruelty and treachery totally inconsistent with the usages of civilized nations in war, even in the defence of their own country. But Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that such acts,—acts which must have been anticipated when the invasion was undertaken,—release them from the declarations which were made. They hold that nothing but the most imperative necessity of self-preservation would justify them after such declarations in the annexation, against the will of the people, of Affghan territory. Attempts have been made to prove that the rule of the British Government would be willingly accepted by the inhabitants of Kandahar, but it is admitted by almost all those who are most competent to form an opinion that the mass of the inhabitants of the territory which it would be necessary to annex would be bitterly opposed to the loss of their independence, and to the Government of a power alien in race and religion. Apprehensions are entertained by some that the retirement from Kandahar would be regarded by the people of Afghanistan and of India as a confession of weakness, and such a result may be one of the inevitable results of a policy which Her Majesty's present advisers have from the outset deplored. But in their opinion, the moral effect of a scrupulous adherence to declarations which have been made and, a striking and convincing proof given to the people and princes of India that the British Government have no desire for further annexation of territory could not fail to produce a most salutary effect in removing the apprehensions and strengthening the attachment of our Native allies throughout India and on our frontiers.

Quite so. And we cannot feel sufficiently grateful to Her Majesty's Government for this noble vindication of the moral sense of the British nation. Lord Hartington continues:

Although Her Majesty's Government have been influenced in the decision at which they have arrived, mainly by considerations of a broad political character, they are not insensible to the weight of the military opinions which attach great importance to the value of Kandahar as a strategic position. For the reasons I have indicated they do not consider the question of the military defence of the frontier against invasion by a formidable power, as an urgent one, but admitting its possible importance at some future time, they are of opinion that the military occupation of Kandahar, should it ever become necessary for the defence of the Indian empire, would be far more advantageously undertaken when an advance of some hostile power should have made it clear that not only the safety of India but the independence of Afghanistan is threatened. Whatever strategic advantages may be looked for from the occupation of Kandahar, they must be immensely increased by its occupation with the assent and good will of the Afghan people, as a measure needful, not only for the defence of our own dominions, but for the protection of their independence. If the Afghans have ever been disposed to look with more friendship on either their Russian or Persian than their British neighbour, it is not an unnatural result of the fear for the loss of their freedom which our past policy has been calculated to inspire. There is nothing in the character of the Afghan people which would lead to the belief that they would welcome invasion or subjection by any power whatever, and it appears to Her Majesty's Government not unreasonable to hope that a policy of complete withdrawal from Afghan territory, coupled with a steady abstinence from interference in their internal affairs, adopted after the signal vindication of our military superiority, will, if publicly announced and steadily adhered to, have the effect of converting these semi-civilized but brave tribes into useful allies of the British power.

These are some of the considerations by which Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency in Council should be guided in the policy now to be adopted in Southern and Western Afghanistan. They regret that it has not hitherto appeared possible to withdraw the troops immediately from Kandahar, not only because the occupation must involve the continuance of a heavy military expenditure, but because they apprehend that, so long as it is maintained, local disturbances or renewed hostile combinations may make ultimate retirement more difficult than it would have been during the present temporary condition of tranquility which has followed the total defeat of Ayub Khan

They, however, desire that your Excellency should steadily keep in view the paramount importance of effecting such withdrawal on the earliest suitable occasion.

Later declarations of Lord Hartington shew that Her Majesty's Government have not changed their opinion on the subject, that the scare of the secret Kabul correspondence since published has not frightened them, and that the orders for the evacuation of Kandhahar will be strictly carried out. We believe that instructions have been issued by Government for the withdrawal of our troops from Kandhahar before the next hot weather begins. Thus the Affghan policy of the late Government is completely upset, and this is a matter of national congratulation. The high moral sense shewn by the present ministry will not fail to be duly appreciated throughout the continent of Asia.

MISSIONARY PROFESSORS IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGES.

THE *Englishman* has at last come to the rescue of Dr. Hoernle, who, it is rumoured, is about to be appointed a Professor in the Presidency College. We have taken objection to this appointment because the admission of Christian Missionaries into the educational service is opposed to the repeated declarations, rules and orders of Government on the subject. Our contemporary does not pretend to discuss the question on this definite basis; he gives it a go-bye, and imports some personal and abstract reasoning. We are, however, quite willing to meet him on his own ground. He says, "now, it is true that the gentleman in question has been for many years connected with the Church Missionary Society. But, although originally engaged in mission work properly so called, he has for a long time devoted himself to purely educational work, and to philological researches having no bearing whatever upon missionary enterprises." May we ask whether a missionary's position is altered because he devotes himself to education instead of to preaching? Is the missionary less a missionary, because he interprets the Word of his Master in a school instead of propagating it from the pulpit or in the market? Some of the most devoted missionaries, who ever came out to this country, took their position as teachers, we mean, Dr. Duff, Dr. Mackay, Rev. Mr. Smith, Rev. Mr. J. Ewart, Rev. Mr. Anderson, Rev. Mr. Ogilvey, and others whom we need not mention. They were all earnest men, devoted servants of their Lord, who by their precepts and examples did their best to help the cause of the Christian Mission in India, but who were engaged in educational work, and seldom took to preaching except occasionally delivering lectures on Christian topics. Some of them also occupied themselves with literary work or scientific researches "having no bearing whatever upon missionary enterprises." For instance Dr. Duff was for some years the editor of the *Calcutta Review*; Dr. Mackay used to contribute to that periodical and also delighted in gazing at the stars above; and Mr. Smith besides conducting the *Calcutta Review*, found pleasure in mathematical pursuits, "having no bearing whatever upon missionary enterprises." Would the Government have acted consistently with its avowed policy of religious neutrality in matters of education, if it had pitchforked Dr. Duff, Dr. Mackay or Mr. Smith into the Hindu College? For the matter of that Dr. Duff once offered to deliver lectures at the Hindu College after college hours, but the Government refused the permission. Then our contemporary says, "the difference between the education given in a Mission College affiliated to the University of Calcutta, and that given in a Government College, is purely nominal: the professors of the one are paid by a mission Society, the professors of the other by Government, but that is the only sense in which the former gives a religious, and the latter a secular education." This we confess is news to us. We were not aware until now that there was no difference in the instruction given in a Missionary College, and that given in a Government College. Is not the education given in the Government College denounced by the missionaries as "godless," and has that charge no meaning? Is it true that because the professors in a Missionary College are paid by a Mission Society, therefore the education given in that college is considered "religious"? We did not know that religion is

moulded by the source of money supply. But as the writer charitably says that we are "not particularly well versed in the ecclesiastical law of Christian communities," we were not acquainted with this grand truth. We hope henceforward all critics of the Government system of education will understand that there is no essential difference between a Missionary College and a Government College except the source of money supply. Then our contemporary is good enough to tell us that Dr. Hoernle's "connection with the Church Missionary Society has entirely ceased," that he is not in any sense now a "missionary propagandist" or a "professed missionary," but immediately below he adds, that "he (Dr. Hoernle) intends to hold his clerical character in abeyance." So according to our contemporary religion is a matter of personal convenience; a man may put on the religious cloak and put it off just as it may suit his own sweet will. If this is the principle on which the Christian Missionary is justified to act, we must bow our diminished head before our censor in the columns of the *Englishman*. We had the temerity to say that "Dr. Hoernle cannot serve God and Mammon," and because we had the misfortune of saying previously that he could not serve God and Government at the same time, our shrewd contemporary has discovered that we have caught the "clever knack" of "many native papers" "of insinuating evil opinions of Government without actually expressing them," in other words we have put Mammon and Government in the same category. Evidently this "goak" comes from a Scotchman, a Mac-canno(i)e, if we may so express ourselves, for if the writer had "carefully" read our articles, as he professes to have done, he would not have committed the awkward mistake of confounding Mammon with the Queen's Government. What we meant was that a servant of God should not shew a craving for filthy lucre, and in that sense we observed that Dr. Hoernle could not serve God and Mammon at the same time. We believe such combinations of expression in English is well understood, and did not for a moment suspect that it would be misapprehended by the professed *Englishman*. Our contemporary then thus expounds the clerical law to us. "'Once a priest always a priest' is a doctrine of the Romish Church, but one that nearly all Protestant Churches have repudiated. It is true that until recently it was impossible for a clergyman of the Church of England to lay aside his holy orders, but an Act was passed a few years back giving the Church clergy the same liberty in this matter that the Ministers of other Protestant bodies have always enjoyed. A man who has taken holy orders may now at his will put them to one side and become a layman again. It is interesting, not to say amusing, to find a Hindu paper, presumably not particularly well versed in the ecclesiastical law of Christian communities, suddenly discovering that "the doctrine 'once a priest, always a priest,' is sound and righteous." It is not the first time, however, that Saul has been seen amongst the prophets. But, to pass on, we see no reason why the gentleman in question should lay aside his orders, although such a step would finally dispose of any shadow of justification for the objections of the *Hindoo Patriot*. The fact that he is willing to accept a post in the strictly secular educational service means, we presume, that he intends to hold his clerical character in abeyance." Of course we do not pretend to be "particularly well versed in the ecclesiastical law of the Christian communities;" that's not our vocation, Hal. But as Hindus we can say that if a Hindu having resigned the good things of this world, and dedicated himself entirely to the service of God, should put aside his sacred cloth, or to use the significant words of our contemporary, keep it "in abeyance," for the sake of filthy lucre, he could not command our respect or sympathy. This sort of playing fast and loose with religion is not certainly calculated to raise the minister who practises it in the estimation of thinking and righteous men. Of course we have no right to ask Dr. Hoernle why he should give up mission work, and "hold his clerical character in abeyance" in order to enter the Government service; that is his own business; but the people of this country cannot help forming their own opinion of a man, who chooses to "hold his clerical character in abeyance" for the sake of temporal advantages. Our contemporary says: "We see no reason why he should not retain his orders, so that he might resume his clerical work at some future time, if circumstances or inclination induced him to leave Government employ." Certainly not. Nothing like having two strings to one's bow. We admire the elasticity of the religious conscience of the writer. Serve God, serve Man, but above all serve Time, in other words serve Thyself, and laugh at the world that scorns at you. The Mission Society may pay you, but their rate of pay is not consonant with your ideas of comfort and happiness; go to Government, tell them that you will not disseminate the Word of God, to which you had hitherto bound yourself, that contract could not be specifically enforced, take the secular service, make money, and revert to the service of God hereafter, if you like! This argument we admit is a clencher.

One word more. We had said that even if the religious prejudice of the people of India be an "unreasoning prejudice," the Government ought to respect it. This we submit forms the corner-stone of the great fabric of British rule in India. Our English rulers have from the earliest times pledged to observe a policy of religious neutrality. The Court of Directors gave repeated assurances to that effect. The Queen-Empress in assuming the direct government of the country made an emphatic declaration on this subject in her memorable Royal Proclamation. Every successive Governor General has promised to carry out faithfully the recognized policy of Government in this respect. But our contemporary, while admitting that the appointment of Dr. Hoernle to the Presidency College "might excite the prejudices of natives," indirectly appeals to us by saying that "it would be more to the credit of a high class native paper to attempt to correct, rather than to pander to, the prejudices of the Hindu community." We are sorry to say we cannot comply with this appeal. We will not be true to our name, professions, and character, if we did not faithfully represent the opinions and feelings of our countrymen. When we do this, we do not "pander to their prejudices," that is not the right word, we simply perform an obligation, which we owe to the nation. But talking of "prejudices" are the Hindus singular in this respect? Do not Protestant Englishmen and Presbyterian Scotchmen object to sending their children to Jesuit schools? Notwithstanding the four Colleges attached to the Dublin University, does not Parliament annually sanction the Maynooth Grant for the education of Roman Catholics by persons of their own sect? Will our contemporary be good enough to say how many Catholic teachers are admitted into the public schools in his own country? If in advanced countries such as England, Scotland and Ireland, the religious feeling, or if you would like to call it, "prejudice" is so strong, why blame the poor Hindus for clinging to their religious feelings? Nay more. Whatever may be the propriety of sometimes serving God and at others Mammon, no one who is honestly attached to his religion can, in justice to his faith, allow that religion to be tampered with by a heterodox teacher. No Protestant can honestly think that he does no harm to his faith by allowing his son to be brought up by Jesuits, and the Roman Catholic is rare who would send his son to a Protestant clergyman to be trained in secular education. And if it would be dishonest and lukewarmness of faith to send his son to a clergyman of other than his own faith, it would be equally so in the case of the Hindu. The question at issue does not concern the truth of any particular form of religion, but the justice of Government forcing the Hindu subjects of Her Majesty to place their children under Christian Missionary teachers. And had our contemporary put the question in this light he would have at once perceived its true bearing; but it would not suit his purpose to do so, and so he has thought fit to be busy with beating about the bush, and mislead the Government.

5

THE UNIVERSITY MODERATORS.

FOR some time the slaughter of innocents at the University examinations was most frightful. After assiduous labour of years, both on the part of the teachers and that of the taught, the results were the most unsatisfactory possible. Two-thirds of the candidates for the Entrance were usually plucked, and thereby denied the means of further education. The other examinations proved equally disastrous. These results the Director of Public Instruction usually accounted for by referring to inefficient teachers and careless students, but never urged a syllable against the examiners; while the University authorities had their usual stereotyped language of approbation for the manner in which the examiners did their duty. The outside public, however, were not so satisfied, and the feeling was strong that the questions were not framed with proper regard to the standards fixed. On one occasion Mr. Kempson, then Director of Public Instruction in the North-Western Provinces, in an official report denounced some of the questions as unfair; and others followed suit. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, who to his many acquirements does not reckon a well-developed bump of veneration, openly denounced the examiners, and wrote several letters to the Syndicate, pointing out the unsuitability of many of the questions included in the Entrance examination papers. Commenting upon them, Mr. A. O. Hume, then Secretary to the Government of India, Agricultural Department, said:—"When I see, as I have recently seen, in some of these papers questions set at the Entrance examination for native boys that I, an Englishman fairly well-educated and of fair average abilities, feel myself unable to answer satisfactorily, I am lost in astonishment at their receiving the sanction of a University that professes to desire to put down cramming. How could the knowledge requisite to answer such questions possibly be acquired *except* by cramming?" Again: "languages, after all, are but means and not ends, and cramming examination papers of boys aspiring to collegiate education with technical, grammatical and catch questions, such as the Raya describes as forming the great bulk of the questions set, appears to me to be equally at variance with the spirit of our institutions and with common sense." The Syndicate, however, would not admit the defect, and tried to put down unpleasant discussion. They were, however, good enough, at the same time to issue a circular, dated June 25, 1879, enquiring "whether any, and if so, what steps should be taken with the view of securing greater uniformity in the standards of the University examinations in all subjects." The replies, though guarded, fully bore out the charge, and, on the recommendation of Messrs. Tawney and Elliot, a resolution was adopted to appoint, at each examination, moderators "to scrutinize, in consultation with the Registrar, the papers of examiners before they are printed or lithographed," with power "to omit or insert questions in examination papers, to alter the wording of questions, and to pass students who have failed in one subject only in an examination, by the addition of grace marks". The moderators in the Arts division for the past year were Messrs. Reynolds and Croft, and under their supervision the English questions were to a considerable extent weeded, and the result has been that, while in 1878 the passed students numbered 1095 out of a total of 2619, this year the number has risen to over 1600 out of a total of about 2800. The figures for the other examinations are also good. The results would have been much better, had the oriental questions been as carefully divested of their defects as the English ones had been. But they were not. The moderators, from their want of knowledge of oriental languages, could not grapple with them; and the papers were characterised by an amount of pedantry and unfitness which is highly discreditable to the examiners concerned. The prevailing object in framing these questions seems to have been a desire to display the learning of the examiners, and not to test the acquirements of the examinees.

The Entrance examination is designed to test the knowledge of the students in the rudiments of learning—in fact in the three R's.—

so that the students may be able to follow their tutors in the college classes. In Bengali all that is wanted is fair conversancy with plain prose; but some of the questions put do not convey any such object. One of the questions asked (2nd of the morning paper) is, "Describe in Bengali the subjects treated in the *Nirukta* and *Pratisakhya*." Now, the *Nirukta* is the most ancient Sanskrit vocabulary of the Rig Veda, and the *Pratisakhya* is the general name of a class of equally old Sanskrit works on Vedic accents, and how on earth an Entrance candidate choosing Bengali for his second language is to answer such a question, and what relation it bears to a moderate knowledge of current Bengali, it is difficult to conceive. Were a pedagogue at a middle class examination for a moderate knowledge in the English language to ask—Describe the subjects treated in *Di Offices* and *Anabasis*, he could have made himself scarcely more ridiculous. Again, (Question 5) "the Sanskrit Grammar has three numbers—singular, dual and plural,—but the Bengali has only two, the first and the last, how then can you express the dual number in the latter language?" This is inimitable; it presumes that the boy who knows not Sanskrit and selects Bengali for his second language will understand the question best by an illustration drawn from the Sanskrit Grammar of which he knows nothing. Again, a candidate of this class is asked to give the Pauranic legend about a certain personage unknown in Bengali, and if known, what has his legend to do with a knowledge of ordinary Bengali it is not easy to divine. The text-book in Sanskrit Grammar is Isvarachandra Vidyasagara's *Upakramanika*, and it does not give the technical terms *lot, lit* &c., and questions have been framed with those terms, which are simply unintelligible.

The Sanskrit questions for the First Arts, are also objectionable, among other reasons, because some of them are incorrect and others cannot be answered without reference to an incorrect text-book (by the examiner) not in use in the North-West Provinces. The B. A. examination should of course be stiff; but even in it unfair and catch questions are not permissible, and some of the questions are clearly open to the charge. We have neither time nor space at command to go through them *seriatim*, but we cannot allow one of them to pass without a protest. Question VII of the afternoon paper says, "write the above extract on Roman character," and the extract given extends to 19 lines of stiff Sanskrit. It may be said that a candidate for the honors of a B. A. should be able to do this. But how is he to do it? Is the subject taught in any Government College? If not, how can a young man be fairly plucked for failing to do so? It does not come under any of the different heads of examination fixed by the University, and the Examiner had, therefore, as much right to set such a question as he had to ask the technical difference between *mezzo soprano* and *contralto*. Of course he is expected to know the nature and powers of the English Alphabet, and were he to transliterate accordingly, i. e. in the same way in which ordinary Englishmen write Bengali names, would his exercise be approved? If not which of the thirty or more different systems of Romanization, more or less known, was it that the examiner had in his mind, and according to which he proposed to adjudge marks? The most thoroughly English is the scheme of Gilchrist, in which all the long vowels are indicated by double letters. Would that have sufficed? or that of the late Mr. Crow? or of Sir William Jones? We have the systems of Wilson, Lepsius, Hunter, MaxMuller, and a host of others, each differing from its rival in some pecularity or other. The University has a system of its own, which was devised for it by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra for the uniform transliteration of native names. Which of these was it that was aimed at? Again, to one unaccustomed to writing in the romanised form, the mere copying of the long extract would take two hours, and how could he do so and answer the other questions, some twenty or more, within the limited time of three hours? Verily, to expose students to the risk of failure with such questions and such uncertainty is a positive mischief, which the University authorities should never tolerate. We can easily conceive that the Examiner himself is master of none of the systems now current, and he framed the question solely to win the good-will of some one or other; but whether so or not, in the interest of the whole body of Indian students we cannot but denounce the trick as scandalous and disgraceful.

Some of the questions for Honors in Sanskrit have been denounced by some of the candidates, but we have no space for them. One of them refers to Schlegel's history, which forms no part of the Honor course, and another enquires about "the imitation and the interjection" theories of the origin of language noticed by Max Muller. It happens, however, that the subject of origin of language, like Schlegel's history, forms no part of the Honor course, and there is as much relation between Sanskrit literature and origin of language, as there is between the Goodwin Sands and the Tenterdon Steeple. It is certainly remarkable that a Bengali Pandit should busy himself about the *Bow-wow* theory, and the uninitiated may be startled by it; but in asking the question it would have been well if he had attributed it to its true author. Max-Muller notices it only to refute it. On the whole it looks very like a *Bow-wow* and nothing more. These evils arise from the notion entertained by some of the leading members of the Syndicate that the fees for examiners are the perquisites of the school masters, and that they should be granted to certain favourites irrespective of all considerations about fitness and capacity.

ASSAM IN 1879-80.

THE Report on the Administration of the Province of Assam for 1879-80 has been lying on our table for sometime past. The year will be remembered as a memorable one in the history of Assam. In the beginning of October 1879 the late Mr. Damant, Political Officer in charge of the Naga Hills District, went down with an escort of only ten policemen to visit Piphima, Samaguting and Dimapur, with a view to ascertain the real intentions of those villages, the attitude of which he had strong reasons to doubt. On the 13th of the same month Mr. Damant set out on his ill-fated expedition accompanied by an escort of 21 military and 65 policemen. He halted for the night at Jotsoma, and when about to start for Khonoma the next morning his Jotsoma interpreter repeatedly begged him not to proceed; but Mr. Damant replied that there was no danger. He had, however, to pay dearly for disregarding the warnings which had been given to him by his faithful interpreter. Mr. Damant and his escort were murdered by the men of Khonoma. The news of this disaster reached Kohima the same afternoon, and preparations were at once commenced in expectation of an immediate attack. The Nagas beseiged Kohima on the 21st October. Colonel Johnstone, Political Agent at Munipore, had on receiving intelligence of Mr. Damant's death, asked the Maharaja of that State to place 2,000 men at his disposal. With this small force he started the very next day and accomplished the distance of nearly 100 miles over a roadless and most difficult country in five days. He reached Kohima just in time to relieve the beleaguered garrison. Were it not for the energy and promptitude of Colonel Johnstone and the loyalty of the Maharaja of Munipur, the results would have been disastrous. We trust the Government will recognize the valuable services rendered by His Highness in a fitting manner. To punish Khonoma and reassert the supremacy of the British Government in the Naga Hills, a force was despatched under the command of a Brigadier-General. Khonoma was captured and utterly destroyed, its land being confiscated. The Naga war lasted for four months, though there was no further resistance of a concentrated nature. The most serious injury caused by the Nagas after the capture of Khonoma was a raid on the Baladhan tea-garden. The raiders consisted of a very small party and had only seven fire-arms with them; yet they returned to their hills without molestation. Sir Steuart Bayley, the able Chief Commissioner of Assam, visited Cachar soon after this occurence, and promptly made arrangements for the protection of the frontier from a repetition of such attacks. From Cachar Sir Steuart went on through Munipur to the Naga Hills and remained at Kohima for a few days. On the 27th of March the Nagas finally submitted and the little war on our eastern frontier came to an end. Since their submission the Nagas have given no trouble and there have been no more raids or murders. The Political officer is confident that peace will be maintained in the Naga Hills; but Sir Steuart Bayley does not fully share his sanguine anticipations. The Chief Commissioner rightly thinks that the collection of the revenue agreed upon will be the turning point, and if that is peaceably acquiesced in, the principal cause for anxiety will be removed. The future policy to be adopted in regard to the Naga Hills being still under the consideration of the Government of India, it is really unfortunate that Sir Steuart Bayley should be transferred to another part of the country. At the present moment Assam cannot afford to lose his valuable services. It is a mistake to remove Sir Steuart Bayley from Assam until the Naga question has been satisfactorily settled.

The year under report was, on the whole, a favourable one. Though the unusually heavy rainfall in the district of Assam Proper caused considerable damage to the *aus* crop, the outturn of *Salidhan* was exceptionally good; and the production of rice was little, if any thing, below the average of previous years. The Report before us thus describes the condition of the people:—"With the exception of the Garo Hills, where some deaths occurred which, if not actually attributable to want, were at all events accelerated by privation, the material condition of the people throughout the Province is reported by District Officers to be one of prosperity. Indications of this are seen in the universal difficulty which is found in obtaining hired labour. The continuance of high prices is advantageous to the cultivating classes, while the high rate of wages prevailing is in most localities a guarantee against real distress. The explanation of the fact that, high wages notwithstanding, there was undoubtedly real pressure experienced in the Garo Hills, is to be sought in the habits of the people, who are unaccustomed to leave their villages and unwilling to work for hire." The health of the people during the year under review was not, however, good. A severe outbreak of cholera occurred in the immediate neighbourhood of Shillong and in some of the districts of the Assam Valley The portion of the Sylhet district which borders on the Hill Tipperah greatly suffered from fever. The tea industry of Assam still continues in a depressed state, and we are told that many gardens are working at a loss. Sir Steuart Bayley attributes this unsatisfactory position of the industry to the overproduction of previous years, which has necessitated, selling at such low prices as leave no margin for profit. Several questions connected with immigration and labour inspection occupied the attention of the Administration of Assam during the year under report. The popularity of the Dhubri route has now been established beyond question. This route was used in 1879-80 by 8000 immigrants, or 57 per cent of all those who came into the Assam district during that period. By a notification in the *Assam Gazette* dated the 30th April 1879 the provisions of Chapter 13 of Act VII. of 1873 (B. C.) were specially extended to labourers from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar. The Chief Commissioner was thus enabled, without closing a garden entirely to all Act. VII. imported labourers, to close it especially to labourers from these parts of India when it appeared that the garden was unsuited to them. This step was taken in consequence of the very serious mortality which had taken place among North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar coolies during the year 1878. The effect of the notification has been found to be most beneficial to the gardens to which it was applied. In the beginning of February 1879 the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal issued a notification forbidding the recruiting of labourers in Sirgoojah and the other tributary mahals of Chota Nagpore. This order was issued on political ground, but its motive is not known. Importations of North-West, Oudh and Behar coolies much diminished

in 1879-80, being for the whole Province 4,043 as against 8,419 in the previous year. During the year 1879 only 24,712 persons of all classes were imported against 43,061 imported in 1878. There was thus a decrease of 18,349 persons or 42 per cent. The reason alleged for this serious decrease is the good harvests in the recruiting districts, which made the coolies unwilling to emigrate. The Report before us records a great improvement in the condition of the labourers imported. The total number of Act VII. coolies, who died during the year was 3,759, as compared with 5,396 deaths in the previous year. The figures shew a considerable improvement in the mortality. The general question of the amendment of Act VII. of 1873 was under the consideration of the Administration of Assam during the year under review.

The only administrative change of importance recorded in the Report before us is the transfer of the head-quarters of the Goalpara district to Dhubri and the opening out of a sub-division at Goalpara. The internal administration of the Province was carried on smoothly under the intelligent guidance of Sir Steuart Bayley. Regulation I. of 1879 which imposed a local cess on land in Assam was brought into force on the 1st of April last. The enactment of this Regulation has produced great discontent among the landed classes in the Province; and we earnestly hope the Government of India will take into favourable consideration the memorial which has been submitted by the people of Assam protesting against the measure. 107 grants comprising an area of 42,950 acres, were made under the Waste Land Rules as against 158, with an acreage of 68,865 in the preceding year. Sir Steuart Bayley, in administering the provincial Public Works Department keeps in view the following excellent objects:—(1) the improvement of steam communication on the main line of the Brahmaputra; (2) the establishment of a system of lateral communication with the river by means of light tramways and light steamers; (3) the maintenance of local roads by local committees, with the professional assistance of the establishment of the Public Works Department. The money allotted to communications has not hitherto been sufficient, nor has it been expended systematically. To effect the improvement of communication on the Brahmaputra the Provincial funds are not adequate. We agree with Sir Steuart Bayley in thinking that in a country like Assam, where it costs Rs. 10,000 to metal a mile of road, and where unmetalled roads become impassable in the rains, the adopting of light tramways from which some return would be received is preferable to the expenditure of money on the construction and maintenance of metalled roads, which return nothing. Endeavours are being made to get up a Company in England to undertake the construction of the proposed Dibrugurh and Sadiya Railway, which is the chief and most important of the lateral lines of communication in the Province. The provincial finances of Assam are in a satisfactory state. The gross receipts from Provincial sources show an increase of Rs. 92,000 and the charges against Provincial revenues of 61,000, as compared with the receipts and charges for 1878-79. Notwithstanding the contribution of one-and-a-half lakhs of rupees made to Imperial revenues and considerably increased expenditure on Public Works the closing balance to the credit of Provincial Funds on 31st March 1880 was higher by Rs. 81,631 than was the case in the previous year. Education is slowly making progress in Assam. During the year under report the total number of pupils in schools under inspection increased by nearly 5 per cent; while the percentage of cost borne by the public rose from 32·3 in 1878-79. to 34·1 in 1879-80. The results of the University Entrance Examination were extremely good; and the condition of the primary schools was satisfactory. There is at present no institution in Assam which affords "superior" teaching, the College classes at the Gowhati High School having been abolished by Colonel Keatinge in 1876. The inhabitants of Assam have recently submitted a memorial to the Chief Commissioner, praying for the re-opening of these classes, and the question is still under consideration. Sir Steuart Bayley, we are glad to see, has promised to consider the memorial of the people of Assam carefully; but the final decision of the question rests with his successor, who we hope will signalize his reign by restoring the High School.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

WE HEAR that peremptory orders have been issued from the Foreign Office for the withdrawal of troops from Kandhahar before the hot weather begins. Things we believe are in train, though no one can be sure of the matter till it is a *fait accompli*, for no one can say what a day may bring forth in Kandhahar.

THE LONG-LOOKED Chitpore line of the Calcutta Tramway was opened to traffic on Monday last. As might be expected the demand for carriages was very great, and the supply has not been adequate. There is consequently much grumbling among passengers, who cannot get the tramway car nor afford to pay the exorbitant fares demanded by the doomed hackney men. The scale of fares fixed by the Tramway Company is also considered too high for certain stations. We have, however, no doubt that if reasonable time be allowed to the Tramway Company, all shortcomings and irregularities complained of will be remedied.

THE RENT BILL CONFERENCE of the British Indian Association takes place at the rooms of the Association this day at 2 P. M. In order to prevent over-crowding the meeting will be open to those gentlemen, who have been invited, their agents and delegates. In order to assist the conference in their deliberations the Government has forwarded to the Association copies of the Bill as revised by Mr. Reynolds with an elaborate memorandum recorded by him.

WE ARE requested to mention that the Conversazione of the Mahomedan Literary Society will take place at the Town Hall to-morrow night. His Excellency the Viceroy, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and other high personages are expected to be present. We need hardly remind our countrymen, who have been invited to this gathering, that they should appear in full dress.

WE HEAR that Major Baring does not intend to submit the Budget statement to the Legislative Council. No measure of taxation is contemplated, and therefore the sanction of the Legislature is not needed. The Budget statement will accordingly be published in the shape of a Resolution of the Government of India in the Financial Department. Technically Major Baring is right, and he has also precedents in favour of his position. But we think the Finance Minister will shew moral strength, if he submits his Budget to the open criticisms of the Vice-regal Council.

RAJA SHOURENDRA MOHUN TAGORE, Mus. Doc. C. I. E. has kindly sent to us for inspection nine volumes of drawings and of a descriptive text of the ruins called *Boro Boudour* in the Island of Java, which the Government of the Netherlands has forwarded to him. The Minister of the Colonies, in forwarding these publications to the Raja writes: "Desirous of giving wide publicity to this work, the King's Government is pleased to offer to you the annexed specimen, and trust thus to attain that scientific object, which is proposed by this publication." We thank the Raja for giving us an opportunity to see the drawings of this rare collection of the ruins of Java, which in many points bear a close resemblance to the antiquities of India.

BABU DIJENDRANATH TAGORE holds an annual festival under the name of Bharutiutsab, to which he invites literary and scientific gentlemen of this city. On Saturday last this festival was held; there was a good attendance of Bengali authors and others. They were entertained with recitations, music, and theatricals. Some cherubs of the house poured forth angelic music. Babu Dijendranath was very attentive to his guests.

JUST as we were going to the press we received the following telegram of the Press Commissioner:

Dated Calcutta 27th February. 1881.—News from Kandahaa 24th February. Yesterday Sirdar Abdulla Khan, Nasrind Umar Jan, Sahibzadah, arrived from Herat with about 70 Sowars. They are the bearers of messages from Sirdar Mahammad Ayub Khan for the British Government. A large member of people from the city went out to we come Umar Jan, Sahibzadah, who is a man of great sanctity and popularity in this part of the country. Letters have been received from Mahammad Ameri Khan and Abdul Karim Khan, Chiefs of the Moghul tribe in Ghaur, preferring their allegiance. Ayub is still in constant correspondence with his friends in Kandahar, but he is represented to be much in want of money, and his position at Herat is not at all secure.

A parade of all the troops in the garrison, including the cavalry brigade from Kokeran, was held by General Hume yesterday morning.

Showers of rain continue, and to-day there was very heavy hail-storm.

BABUS BHUGGOBUTTY CHURN and Benode Behary Mullick of Cross Street entertained at their house last Saturday their European friends with the performance of Yudishtir Rajyavishek Nataka. More than one hundred ladies and gentlemen were present on the occasion. Both the house and the stage were tastefully decorated, and the performance went off very well. Of the amateurs those who performed the parts of Yudishtir, Bhema, Urjuna, and Droupadi, acquitted themselves very creditably. At intervals there were native concert and gymnastic feats performed by a native corps. Both the brothers were exceedingly courteous and attentive to their guests.

IF THERE has been so much misunderstanding about the Census it is certainly due to our authorities. The wildest rumours prevailed about the object of the Census. The Sonthals said that the men would be deported to the West and the women to the East. The hill-tribes of Cachar had some rumour to that effect. It was given out at Chattack that the object was to poison people in order to prevent increase of population. The lower orders of people in such a metropolitan town as Howrah actually believed that their infants would be offered as sacrifices to the river Hooghly for the sake of the erection of the proposed permanent Bridge. Even the intelligent classes could not form an accurate idea of the object of the Census. All these wild rumours and misapprehensions would have been removed if an authoritative statement of the reasons and objects of the Census had been published in both English and in the vernaculars throughout the country. Then the greater part of the Census work has been done by zemindars' amla and respectable villagers, at immense sacrifice of their own business, comforts, convenience, and time. This shews how willing are the people to co-operate with the authorities in furtherance of public objects. But not one of them is satisfied with the treatment he has received at the hands of the officials. We hear loud complaints on all sides. Does not this single fact shew how utterly incapable are our rulers of winning the co-operation of those, over whom they are set to rule?

MAY WE ask why is the Opium Department a sealed departmant to the natives of the country? Is it a secret or political department, by admitting natives into which the State may be put in jeopardy? Is there any occultism in the mode of opium cultivation, which a native ought not to know, and which he does not know? Really it is quite a mystery to us when natives of the country are excluded from the higher grade appointments in the opium department? In the well known despatch of the Government of India to the Local Governments, dated the 18th April 1879, issued under orders of the Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the employment of natives, six departments were excepted, among which were included the Opium and Customs Departments. But it was immediately added:

Though the six departments named under clause (*d*) of paragraph 3 above are excluded from the operation of the present orders, the Governor-General in Council does not wish that offices in these departments should be, in any way, reserved for Europeans. The duties of the Opium and Customs Departments are not more technical or arduous than those of the land-revenue and settlement branches of the service wherein Natives of India do excellent work. Men of the same race as Colonel Montgomerie's Native trans-Himalayan explorers can surely be entrusted with responsible offices in the survey of the plains of India. The Governor-

General in Council has been glad to see that, in one most important branch of the Public Works Department of Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor has decided that Native engineers should be employed much more largely than heretofore. The annual Police reports for the various provinces show that Native Police officers, when advanced to positions of trust, do their work zealously and honestly. And the Governor-General in Council hopes that it may be possible to appoint Natives of India more and more freely to the higher offices in these departments. But for the present His Excellency in Council is not prepared to take special steps for restricting the employment of Europeans in the six departments mentioned at clause (d) above.

So the exceptions made did not imply that natives should as a rule be excluded from the six departments named. But practically natives have been shut out. The business of the Opium Department has been lately considerably extended, and consequently several sub-agents were appointed. Only one native gentleman, Babu Juggodishwar Chatterjea, was deemed qualified for the post, and he was accordingly gazetted in September last as an officiating Assistant Sub-Deputy Agent, but in the Civil List for the quarter ending December 1880, we find that his name is omitted. Now, why he of all others, the only Native Assistant Agent in the Department, has been made to go out? It cannot be that he is not an efficient officer, for we have heard that he has been very highly spoken of by his official superiors. Is it the old story of crime of colour? If so, why was he appointed at all? Possibly there may be some reason with which we are not acquainted. But the question is not why this or that individual is not appointed, but why natives are not appointed to the higher grades of the opium service. It is enough that the opium sale is a monopoly, but surely the opium service should not be a monopoly of the white man.

THE FOLLOWING telegraphic summary of Parliamentary news brought in by the last English Mail will be read with a mingled feeling of surprise and sorrow:

It has been a week scandalous and memorable in the history of the House of Commons. Obstruction has reached a climax, and, so far as the first reading of the Coercion Bill concerned, perished by violent death inflicted by the Speaker on the morning of February the 2nd. Government calculated that the debate on Mr. Forster's motion would end on Friday last, and Mr. Gladstone, in anticipation of the event, delivered one of the most powerful and brilliant speeches he ever made, and carried the whole House with him, Irish members alone excepted. On the flood tide of enthusiasm and admiration he refuted the statement reiterated by the opponents of the Bill that the unsatisfactory condition of Ireland was greatly exaggerated. He showed that never before had the rate of outrages and offences been so high. He said crime had invariably dogged the steps of the Land League, and that wherever their meetings had been held, there fresh outrages had immediately followed. He was frequently hissed and hooted by Mr. Parnell and his friends, but sat down amidst a tempest of applause such as seldom crowns so magnificent an effort as that of the Prime Minister. On Saturday, the House adjourned, and, when it met on Monday, the wrangle broke out afresh. The Government made arrangements for an all night sitting, but scarcely expected the sequel in store. Tuesday broke dull and wet, and with the House still occupied in the same manner, and so the whole of Tuesday passed. Night followed day and the same dreary, disgraceful abuse of the forms of the House was witnessed, motion after motion for adjournment being brought forward, divided on and defeated. No attempt was made to advance any fresh arguments against the Bill or import new facts into the discussion. It was avowed, unmitigated and shameless obstruction. On Wednesday evening, the House having sat continuously for 41 hours, the Speaker stopped the debate and called for a division, which was taken, and by an overwhelming majority, Mr. Forster obtained leave to introduce the Coercion Bill. Immediately afterwards he laid it on the table, and the Irish Members having retired, it was read a first time by acclamation, and the House adjourned. When the House met again on Wednesday, Mr. Parnell gave notice of a vote of censure on the Speaker and Mr. Sullivan moved an adjournment for the purpose, denouncing what had occured. Technically, the Speaker had acted without precedent. Mr. Sullivan at one period of the wrangle rose to criticise the ruling of the Speaker as he confessed "simply to waste time." "This" was his remark, "will do quite as well as anything else." Mr. Parnell had declared the object of the Irish Members was to obtain an Irish Parliament, and, till this end was accomplished, he would obstruct the business of the Imperial Parliament. Many of the scenes which occurred, and much of the language used, would have disgraced a common pot-house. Mr. Healy, one of Mr. Parnell's familiars, made a speech full of the lowest slang, fit for Billingsgate rather than Westminster. Mr. Biggar, in an audible aside, called Mr. Millbank a fool, prefixing the word with an epithet of a very foul nature. Millbank retorted by informing Mr. Biggar in the Lobby that he was a mean, impudent scoundrel. Much more language of an equally disgraceful nature was used, but the above are fair and sufficient specimens. When the House met on Thursday, it was plain that the announcement of Michael Davitt's arrest had exasperated and excited the Irish members. Prolonged murmurs of indignant disapproval from the followers of Mr. Parnell when Sir W. Harcourt stated that Mr. Davitt had violated his ticket of leave, were the premonitory note of the uproar to follow when Mr. Gladstone rose to bring forward his resolution for the better conduct of public business. Mr. Dillon also rose. He declined to sit down. The Speaker named him, and he was suspended and removed by the Serjeant-at-Arms. Mr. Gladstone then resumed his speech, but was interrupted in the same manner by Mr. Parnell, who was similarly ejected. Then came Mr. Finigan's turn. The Irish irreconcilables refused to leave the House while a division on the motion for the expulsion of Mr. Fanigan was taken. They were warned by the Speaker, but they disregarded the warning, and eventually 28 of them were suspended *en masse*. Several single suspensions followed, and eventually 36 Irish members were ejected. After these incidents, occupying four hours, Mr. Gladstone submitted his resolution for the adoption of new rules. He said it had become a question of honour or dishonour, and in that sense a question of life or death. The force of this plea was admitted by Sir S. Northcote, and the chief criticism the resolution received was on the grounds that it transferred too completely to the Speaker the responsibility which ought to be in the hands of Government. Several amendments were made on the resolution with the view of obviating this defect. Sir S. Northcote's suggestion that the Minister should be required to state his reasons for urgency was accepted, and the resolution then allowed to pass. A few unimportant meetings have been held to protest against the Coercion Bill and the Speaker's action, but on the whole the country approves what has been done. The person of Mr. Gladstone is supposed to be in danger, and policemen are stationed day and night outside his door in Downing street.

The Fenian scare continues to agitate the public, and special precautions are taken to protect arsenals and stores of ammunition throughout the country.

The proclamation of the Irish National Directory calling upon the people of Ireland to hold themselves in readiness to manifest their determination to obtain the independence of their country has been posted in nearly all the towns of Ireland, and many towns of north England.

What next and next?

WE HAVE received a batch of papers from the Bengal Office connected with the Government management of certain khas mehals in the district of Midnapore. The *Sadharani*, a Bengali newspaper, published at Chinsurah, had the following:

Sadharani. October 24th 1880.—The khas mehals in Midnapore, from the tenantry of which Government is now demanding enhanced rents, and is making costly efforts to attain its object, contain altogether 24 pergunnahs, comprising an area of 2,000 square miles. So able has been the State management in these mehals that they cannot even boast of the existence of a single road or embankments. Not to speak of facilities of communication between one village and another, during the rains the inhabitants cannot so much as repair from one house to another, unless in a boat, or by wading through water. Their sufferings have become almost unendurable in consequence of their inability to move about and procure necessary provisions;—and this while during the last four years not less than a hundred thousand rupees have been levied in these pergunnahs in the shape of road cess, and levied too from the zemindars after the seizure of their elephants, camels, and horses, including nazirs' fees and peon fees, till the sum realized had reached ten times the amount originally demanded. Zemindars, tenants, and lakhirajdars have been ground to the dust to pay the money. Add to this the hardship occasioned through the carelessness of the employes in the Road Cess Office, which has resulted in not a few cases in the realization of the cess from persons who had already paid it once. There have been again instances in which thrice the amount of the cess justly due has been levied by mistake. There is no remissness shown in the work of collection; no matter whether an assessee has to sell his cattle, or other property, in order that he may be able to pay the cess, it must be paid. But during these four years not one *cowrie* has been expended for the purpose for which the cess has been ostensibly levied. Formerly, embankments were every year constructed in these mehals at the expense of the zemindars for the protection of the crops from inundation; and the least remissness on their part would be viewed with great displeasure by the authorities. All this, however, has changed since the estates came under the direct management of Government. Not a single embankment has been constructed during this period, and the result has been the annual destruction of the crops in many villages by inundation. Government, however, manifests the greatest indifference to the condition of the tenantry. It is busy in other directions, and has spent some lakhs of rupees in making a new survey of the lands in these khas mehals. As a result of the absence of local communications in these parts, it may be noticed that the model school established at Basudehpore by the late Rajah Gagendra Narayan Roy Bahadur has not proved a success. For six months in the year the boys are obliged to stay at home.

The Collector of Midnapore was called upon to report upon the above statements. We have received the report in question, from which we give the following extract:

It will premise by stating that the assertion that the khas mehals in Midnapore cannot boast of the existence of a single road or embankment has no foundation whatever in fact. It is wholly and absolutely false, and devoid of a single particle of truth. The khas mehals alluded to are known by the names of Majnamoota and Jellamootha, and are situated in Hidgelee in the south of the district. They are temporarily-settled estates, containing altogether 21 pergunnahs—11 in one estate and 10 in the other. In 1875 the Majnamoota estate was brought under the direct management of Government, owing to default of its proprietors in payment of Government revenue. It is still under khas management, and will remain so until the enhanced rates of rent fixed in the recent re-settlement proceedings of the estate, and for the realization of which proper and legal measures are being taken under the orders of Government are wholly accepted by the ryots. The Jellamoota estates came under khas management from the beginning of the current financial year, owing partly to its proprietors having defaulted in payment of Government Revenue, and partly owing to their refusal to accept the re-settlement of the estate till the enhanced rates fixed therein were found to have been wholly realized by Government for a reasonable length of time. These two estates are intersected by six different district fair-weather roads of the first class, leading in every direction, and which are in the very best order that fair-weather roads can be put into. Steps were taken last year to sand or metal portions of three of them. They sometimes, during the rains when the weather is excessively moist, become very heavy by reason of mud; but as they aggregate more than 100 miles in length in the two estates, it will entail much expenditure to metal them throughout at once. The khas mehals are covered by a perfect network of Public Works embankments, kept in the most perfect order that human ingenuity can devise. To keep these embankments in repair, the most elaborate measures are annually taken by skilled and competent engineers. The estates are furthermore intersected by the Midnapore low-level canal, 27 miles long. There is the very best communication by water with the Hooghly by means of this canal, the banks of which form most efficient fair-weather roads. I venture to affirm that there is no sub-division in lower Bengal, or in India, which is better off in the way of roads and communications, than Contai.

Under the terms of the last settlement, an annual allowance of 5 per cent. on the mal assets of the several pergunnahs of the estates was granted to the proprietors for the proper maintenance of the grambherees and interior drainage channels in the estates. According to the calculation at the aforesaid rate of 5 per cent., the amount granted for Majnamoota was Rs 7,158, and that for Jellamoota was Rs. 6,889. But the proprietors, during the time of their management of the estates, paid little or no attention either to the bherees or to the channels. They either appropriated the whole allowances to their own use, or squandered them through the mismanagement or dishonesty of their agents and servants.

Since the Majnamoota estate was brought under the direct management of Government in 1875-76, down to 1879-80 a sum of Rs. 9,235-2-2 has been expended by the khas tehsil department in repairing the grambherees of the estate. The rains set in sooner than is found usual, and in extraordinary abundance, last year; and nothing could be done in the way of repairs before the rainy season. It is, however, on the other hand, reported that the crops have not been damaged; the ryots have reaped, and are now reaping, a bumper crop. In my tour in August last, the rice crops in Hidgelee seemed to be excellent, and gave promise of being most abundant—a result which has actually been realized. Wherever there was inundation owing to excessive and abnormally heavy rain, I took measures which afforded every relief that was necessary and possible to be given. The inundation was not in any way owing to defective condition of grambherees or interior drainage channels.

In the recent re-settlement proceedings of the Majnamoota and Jellamoota estates, the former annual grambheree allowances, Rs. 14,047, have been increased to Rs. 21,542, and the most efficient arrangements will be made to disburse the allowances to the best advantage. An overseer possessed of a considerable amount of professional knowledge and skill has already been appointed in the estates for the purpose of preparing estimates and supervising the work in connection with grambherees and interior drainage channels, and he has already taken up his duties. I may add here that besides the large sums of money annually spent by the district road department in constructing and repairing district roads, bridges, &c., in Hidgelee, aggregating Rs. 53,876-1-6 since 1876-77, a sum of about Rs. 4,816-4 has been spent of late years by the District Road Cess Committee in the construction and repairs of the village roads of that portion of Hidgelee which falls within the Jellamoota and Majnamoota estates.

We have not space for more extracts, but what we have given is enough. If the Government instead of taking to such despotic measures as the Vernacular Press Act would shew its moral strength by thus exposing the misstatements of vernacular papers, it would more effectually improve the tone of those papers than it would by having recourse to a hundred repressive measures like the former. Half a dozen examples of this kind will have a far better moral effect than a score of prosecutions under the Vernacular Press Act. The former will produce a healthy reaction, while the latter will simply exasperate. We are sure that the *Sadharani* with all its bumptiousness will be cautious in again putting forth such grossly inaccurate statements and thus slandering the Government. If the Government really wishes to reform the Vernacular Press, let it make examples of this kind.

Darlington's Pain-Curer has been found to be a certain cure for Pains on the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Tightness of the Chest, Bronchitis, Diptheria, Headache, Toothache, Earache, Neuralgia, Colics, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Sciatica, Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Swellings, Old Sores, Ulcers, Piles, Ringworm, Pimples, Freckles, & Eruptions on the skin. May be had retail or wholesale, direct from their Establishment, 49, Dhurrumtollah, Street, Calcutta.

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Oil. The practice which often prevails of mixing certain ingredients with Cod Liver Oil, to render it agreeable to the taste, is highly objectionable for we have it on the authority of Dr. de Jongh himself, that anything which sophisticates it takes largely from its therapeutic value. If I were asked for an explanation of the marked success which for so many years has attended the administration of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod-Liver Oil, I should say that it is owing to its extraordinary medicinal, dietetic, and regiminal properties, and which are found to exist in no other medicine that I am acquainted with, in such uniform combination." Dr de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts. with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 26th February, 1881.

The history of commercial intelligence for the week just closed has been meagre and sad in consequence of the continued depressed state of our markets proceeding from want of disposition on the part of operators, whose previous operations would hardly induce them to repeat the same in this state of affairs. The failure of Messrs. Lyall Rennie, a firm of old and respectable standing has added fuel to fire; we are told that heavy shipments of Tea, Jute and other kinds of country produces have led to the failures of this enterprising firm. Another firm has come into existence—Grey & Co.,—It has risen from the ashes of the late firm.

Import.—Piece-Goods market has since some time past been in a lifeless condition, which has of late been rendered worse by the arrival of large quantities, which were sold a few months ago for forward delivery at higher rates. As these will be added to large stocks already held by dealers, their position will be less safe and it will tell seriously on the Piece-Goods trade, the prospects of which will very likely not improve until Sreeram Navamf, the 8th of April is over, The failure of a known Piece-Goods dealer Jhotaram. Kannialall on last Friday, will further add to the depression.

Exports—This market has not experienced any improvement, no activity has been prevailing to a good extent and operations were confined within narrow limits.

MONETARY.

Money market has exhibited some symptoms of tightness but there has been no further change in the rates of interest or discount, 5 per cent. has been the minimum rate at the Bank of Bengal on deposit of Government Securities.

GOVT. SECURITIES

Met with a good enquiry during the past week and prices have further advanced. the closing rates were as follow :

4%	...	100-14	...	@101
4½%	...	109-14	..	@110

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Maharaja of Doomraon	6	8	o
H. G. Sharp, Esq., C. S., Rampore Bouleah	8	8	o
Head Master, Bolootee School	13	4	o
P. and W. C. Soor, & Co., Meerut	13	4	o
Namkul Literary Institute	6	10	o
Baboo Prosunnochunder Roy, Chundeepore	12	13	9
,, Debendralal Shome, Pooree	6	10	o
,, Chundernath Ghose, Burdwan	6	10	o
,, Poornochunder Ganguly, Colgong	13	4	o
,, Jogessur Ghose, Baubariah	13	4	o
,, Nishikant Banerji Chowdry, Kachadia	10	o	o
,, Jodoonath Bose, Choosdangah	6	10	o
,, Poornochunder Nag, Merkasari	5	o	o
,, Bholanath Das, Backergunge	6	10	o
,, Bissessur Doyal Singh, Gya	6	8	o
,, Shoseevoosun Dutt, Chittagong	10	o	o
,, Omritolal Biswas, Balore	4	o	o
,, Hurryhur Indir Sahi, Soarsand	6	10	o
,, Kadarnath Dutt, Narail	13	4	o
,, Krishnachunder Chuckerbutty, Syadpur	3	5	o
,, Issanchunder Mookerji, Maldah	13	4	o
,, Bejoykisto Mookerji, Ooterparah	13	4	o
,, Srinath Chatterji, Choppah	6	10	o

ERRATA.

For,	Mysore Lecture Society Rs. 13 4	Read	3	5	o
,,	Gopalchunder Mittra, Bustee Rs. 3	Read	6	o	o

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*February* 23, 1881.

GENERAL.—Mr. F. R. S. Collier, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Mozufferpore, is allowed furlough for eighteen months under Section 21 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st April 1881, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. C. B. Garrett, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, who returned from furlough on the 9th instant, is posted to Moorshedabad.

Babu Satya Tarun Mookerjee is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade in the Chota Nagpore Division, *vice* Babu Bhoobendro Nath Roy.

Babu Kristo Prosad Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave is posted to the district of Purneah.

Mr. H. M. Tobin, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sewan, Sarun, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 10th April next.

Mr. T. Jones, Fifth Judge and Clerk of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, has obtained an extension of leave for one week from the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India.

Babu Gobind Mohun Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on leave is posted to the district of Mozufferpore.

In modification of the orders of the 28th ultimo, Babu Runga Lal Banerjee Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Howrah, is allowed furlough for one year under Section 8 Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Babu Poorna Chunder Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. Manbhoom is allowed leave for six months, under Section 4 Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 1st November 1880.

Babu Otool Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Purneah, is vested with the powers of a Collector under the Land Acquisition Act X of 1870, for the purpose of acquiring land required for diverting road No. 5 from the Purneah City to Bussantpore.

Babu Nobin Krisno Banerjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Serampore Hooghly is allowed leave for three months, under Section 4 Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leavegranted to him under orders of the 15th November 1880.

Mr. J. J. Livesay, Magistrate and Collector, Rungpore reported his departure from India on furlough on the 29th January 1881.

Mr. W. O'Reilly Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on leave, is posted to the district of Monghyr.

Mr. R. F. Rampini, Officiating District and Sessions Judge. Dacca is allowed leave for two months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code. with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr. J. F. Bradbury, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Pergunnahs is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Dacca, during the absence on leave, of Mr. R. F Rampini or until further orders.

In modification of the orders of the 14th instant, Babu Gopal Chander Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. Balasore is appointed to have charge of the Bongong division of the Nuddea district, during the absence, on leave of Babu Tara Prosad Chaterjee, or until further orders.

In modification of the orders of the 15th instant, Babu Amar Nath Bhattacharjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector officiating as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, is appointed to have charge of the Barripore division of the district of the 24-Pergunnahs.

Advertisements.

Notice.

Wanted immediately for Dacca Central Census Tabulatory office for 4 Months 500 mohurirs at Rs. 15 a month, 5 Office Supervisors at Rs. 80 a month, 1 clerk at Rs. 50, 1 clerk at Rs. 40 and 58 clerks at Rs. 25 a month.

The Mohurirs need only know Bengalee. For the clerks a knowledge of English is necessary. Applications should be submitted at once and selected candidates must be prepared to join at once.

(Sd.) T. E. COXHEAD,
Offg. Collector of Dacca.

Dacca Collectorate, 23rd February, 1881.

NALHATI STATE RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

On and from 1st March next, the double train service on the Nalhati Line will be restored.

R. G. MOOKERJEE,
Manager,

TENDERS.

Tenders will be received up to the noon of the 4th March 1881 for lighting certain street lamps in the Suburbs of Calcutta with kerosine oil for one year commencing from 1st April 1881 to 31st March 1882.

Tenders must specify the rate per month for each light.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Each tender must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and must be accompanied by deposit of 100 Rupees in whole Currency notes.

All informations can be obtained on application to the Engineer to the Municipality at Alipore between the hour of 12 A. M. and 5 P. M.

Munl. Comr.'s Office, Alipore, 24th February 1881. } R. C. STERNDALE, Vice-Chairman.

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With a view to remove the difficulty and inconvenience which the public in the Mofusil feel in getting books, stationery, chairs, benches, black-boards &c., at their proper prices, we have opened an agency at No 23, Brindaban Mullik's 2nd Lane, Calcutta. The rate of commission we charge for executing orders is only 5 per cent. We take upon ourselves to send the things ordered for by Post, Rail, Steamer or any other cheap conveyance according to instructions, the charge of conveyance being payable by the buyer himself. Every order should be accompanied by cash. As to our respectability we ask the public to refer to the following gentlemen :—

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TENDER.

Tenders are invited and will be received up to the noon of the 4th March 1881 for supply of metal and executing the repairs of the roads in the suburbs for the season 1881-82,

Stone Metal.—Tenders to specify the rates for *Indigenous* and *Imported Stone (Bombay, Mauritius* and *Melbourne* only) broken to size as per specification and delivered at the Commissioners' Stone depots; also the rates for carting metal to the road sides and consolidation of the same No tenders will be accepted simply for the supply of metal.

The same rule applies to the tenders for the repairs to Jhammah Roads.

The following are the approximate quantities of metal required in each Ward.

Name of Ward.	STONE METAL. Annual repairs.	Partial repairs.	Total.	JHAMMAH METAL. Annual repairs and New metalling.	Partial repairs.	Total.
Ward No. 1	7300	1500	8800	8575	4000	12575
,, ,, 2	33700	1000	34700	43901	8000	51901
,, ,, 3	5600	1000	6600	44665	8000	52665
,, ,, 4	..	500	500	62299	10000	72299
,, ,, 5	43050	1000	44050	50569	10000	60569
,, ,, 6	17350	1500	18850	37766	12000	49766
	107000	6500	113500	247775	52000	299775

All further information can be obtained on application to the Engineer at the office of the Municipal Commissioners, at Alipore, between the hour of 1 and 5 P. M.

Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and accompanied with an Earnest money of Rupees one hundred in Currency notes. The Commissioners reserve the right of accepting or rejecting any tenders. The earnest money of all Rejected tenders will be returned.

All tenders must be submitted in printed forms, which will be obtained on application at the office on payment of one rupee each.

R. C. STERNDALE,
Vice-Chairman.

Office of the Municipal Commrs. for the Suburbs of Calcutta, The 24th February, 1881.

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Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Voigt.
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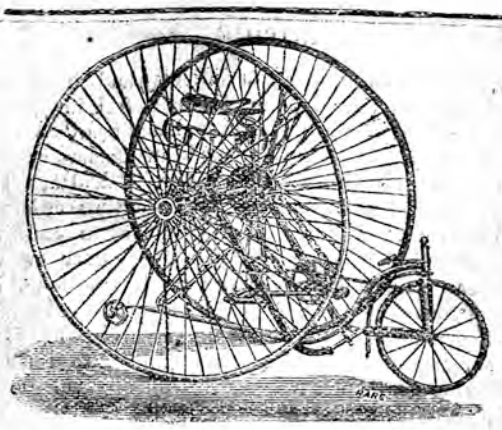
Admission—First day Rs. 2; Second day Re. 1.
The Fancy Fair will be opened from 4 to 8 o'clock each day.



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অবকাশ রঞ্জিনী ১ম ভাগ ... ... ১৲

ঐ ২য় ভাগ ... ... ১।০

ভারত উচ্ছ্বাস ৵০

ক্লিওপেট্রা ... ... ॥০

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ENGINEERING COLLEGE, HOWRAH.

The Engineer classes of the College will open for the present session on Monday the 14th March, 1881. Only those students who have passed the Entrance Examination of the University will be admitted. Candidates for admission should apply to the Principal.

An examination for admission to the Overseer and the Mechanical Apprentice classes will be held at the College on Monday, and Tuesday, the 7th and 8th March at 10 A. M. The subjects of examination are—Arithmetic (thewhole); Algebra to simple Equations; Euclid, Books I. and II.; and English.

Candidates for admission to the examination should notify their desire to the Principal not later than March 2nd. Those who have passed the Entrance Examination of the University will be admitted without further examination.

There are some vacancies for mechanical apprentices, both European and Native at reduced rates.—

Calcutta, The 18th February 1881. } A. W. CROFT, Director of Public Instruction.

MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Seventeenth Annual Conversazione of the above Society will be held at the TownHall on Tuesday, the 1st March 1881, at 8½ P. M.

ABDOOL LUTEEF, Secretary.

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A Civilian, European or Native, aged 2 next birthday, wishes to lay apart a sum of about THIRTEEN RUPEES a month in such a way that his savings will be securely invested until the time of his retirement from Service: and that should he die beforehand, a provision will be secured for his relations. By payment of a sum of Rs. 163-0-0 per annum (or at the rate of about Rs. 13-0-0 per mensem) as the premium for an Endowment Assurance, he will become entitled to Rs. 5,000 on attaining age 55; and should he die before attaining that age—even after payment of only one year's subscription—the full sum of Rs 5,000 will be paid to his representatives. [Vide Table III. of Prospectus.]

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at age 25, would cost about Rs. 15 a month;
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at age 35, ,, ,, about Rs. 21 a month;
at age 40, ,, ,, about Rs. 28 a month;
at age 45, ,, ,, about Rs. 41 a month;

The rates for other Ages, also for Endowments payable at Ages 45, 50, *and* 60, *and all further information, may be obtained on application. Premiums can be paid half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly, at slightly increased rates.*

There is an obvious advantage in effecting Investments of this nature *early in life*:—by delay the rate of subscription increases;—death may occur before the intended provision is made;—or health may fail and render the life ineligible for Assurance.

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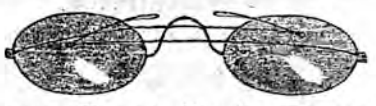

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